

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An interchangeable upper portion of an article of footwear comprising:  
5 one or more releasable fasteners for releasably fastening the interchangeable upper portion to an article of footwear; and

one or more alignment means for aligning the interchangeable upper portion on an article of footwear prior to releasably fastening the interchangeable upper portion to an article of footwear.

10 2. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 1, wherein the one or more alignment means include hook and loop fasteners.

15 3. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 1, further comprising shoelaces.

4. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the interchangeable upper portion comprises a breathable material.

20 5. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 3, wherein the breathable material on the interchangeable upper portion corresponds with a breathable material on a fixed upper portion of an article of footwear, and thereby can allow airflow through the breathable portions to a wearer's foot.

25 6. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 1, wherein the one or more

alignment means are aligning the interchangeable upper portion on an article of footwear.

7. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 1, wherein the interchangeable upper portion is releasably fastened to an article of footwear.

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8. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 7, wherein the article of footwear comprises:

a fixed upper portion;

a sole fixedly connected to the fixed upper portion; and

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one or more releasable fasteners for engaging the one or more releasable fasteners on the interchangeable upper portion and for releasably fastening the interchangeable upper portion to the article of footwear.

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9. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 8, wherein the fixed upper portion further comprises one or more alignment means for receiving the one or more alignment means of the interchangeable upper portion of an article of footwear.

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10. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 9, wherein the one or more alignment means of the interchangeable upper portion are engaging the one or more alignment means from the interchangeable upper portion.

11. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 8, wherein the interchangeable upper portion substantially covers the fixed upper portion.

12. An article of footwear comprising:

an upper portion;

a sole fixedly connected to the upper portion; and

one or more releasable fasteners for releasably fastening an interchangeable upper

5 portion to the article of footwear.

13. The article of footwear of claim 12, further comprising one or more alignment means for receiving corresponding alignment means from an interchangeable upper portion of an article of footwear and aligning the interchangeable upper portion with the article of footwear prior to releasably fastening the interchangeable upper portion to the article of footwear.

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14. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 13, wherein the one or more alignment means include hook and loop fasteners.

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15. The article of footwear of claim 12, further comprising an interchangeable upper portion of an article of footwear, the interchangeable upper portion comprising:

one or more releasable fasteners for releasably fastening the interchangeable upper portion to the article of footwear.

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16. The article of footwear of claim 15, wherein the interchangeable upper portion further comprises one or more alignment means for aligning the interchangeable upper on the article of footwear prior to releasably fastening the interchangeable upper to an article of footwear.

17. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 12, wherein at least a portion of the interchangeable upper portion comprises a breathable material.

5 18. The interchangeable upper portion of claim 17, wherein the breathable material on the interchangeable upper portion corresponds with a breathable material on a fixed upper portion of an article of footwear, and thereby can allow airflow through the breathable portions to a wearer's foot.

10 19. The article of footwear of claim 15, wherein the one or more alignment means of the interchangeable upper portion are engaging the one or more alignment means from the interchangeable upper portion.

15 20. The article of footwear of claim 14, wherein the interchangeable upper portion is releasably fastened to the article of footwear.

21. The article of footwear of claim 12, further comprising an interchangeable upper portion releasably fastened to the article of footwear.

20 22. The article of footwear of claim 21, wherein the interchangeable upper portion substantially covers the fixed upper portion.

23. An article of footwear comprising:  
a fixed upper portion of an article of footwear;

a sole fixedly connected to the fixed upper portion; and

one or more releasable fasteners releasably fastening an interchangeable upper portion of an article of footwear to the article of footwear.

5           24.    The article of footwear of claim 23, wherein the fixed upper portion comprises one or more alignment means, and wherein the interchangeable upper portion further comprises one or more alignment means for receiving the one or more alignment means of the fixed upper portion.

10           25.    The article of footwear of claim 24, wherein the one or more alignment means of the fixed upper portion are engaging the one or more alignment means from the interchangeable upper portion.

15           26.    The article of footwear of claim 23, wherein the interchangeable upper portion substantially covers the fixed upper portion.

27.    A method of releasably fastening an interchangeable upper portion of an article of footwear to a fixed upper portion of an article of footwear, the method comprising:

20           engaging one or more alignment means on the interchangeable upper portion with one or more alignment means on the article of footwear; and  
releasably fastening the interchangeable upper portion to the fixed upper portion.